

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-05 AGR-10

FEA-01 INT-05 /130 W

----- 021544

R 311550Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8114

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1901

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ENRG, EWWE, ETRD, PFOR, TD, UR

SUBJ: SIGNING OF GOTT-USSR AGREEMENTS POSTPONED UNTIL AUGUST

REF: A) POS 1895; B) POS 1476; C) MOSCOW 9874; CERP 0002

SUMMARY

PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS RECENTLY TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT
SIGNING OF THE BILATERAL MERCHANT MARINE AND CIVIL
AVIATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR (REPORTED REF B)
HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AUGUST, WHEN A SOVIET TEAM
IS TO VISIT TRINIDAD FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIS-
CUSSIONS. HE SAID THAT TRINIDADIAN WHO ACCOMPANIED
HIM ON HIS RECENT VISIT MADE PRESENTATIONS TO SOVIET
OFFICIALS REGARDING TRINIDAD'S ENERGY-RELATED
INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM, BUT THE USSR REPRESENTATIVES
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QUESTIONED WHETHER ANY OF THE TRINIDAD PROJECTS MADE

COMMERCIAL SENSE. SOVIETS WERE REPORTEDLY ANXIOUS TO EXPORT EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY FOR SECONDARY RECOVERY OF PETROLEUM, AND GOTT WILL SEND AN OIL MISSION TO DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIM MINISTER WILLIAMS REPORTED TO PARLIAMENT JULY 25 ON HIS RECENT MONTH-LONG TRIP TO, INTER ALIA, THE SOVIET UNION. DESPITE THE FACT THAT CABINET HAD GIVEN ITS PRIOR APPROVAL FOR WILLIAMS TO SIGN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR DEALING WITH MERCHANT SHIPPING (THE SOVIETS WANT TO ASSIGN 2 OR 3 SHIPPING OFFICIALS TO PORT OF SPAIN) AND CIVIL AVIATION (REF B), THE TRINIDAD DELEGATION CONVLUDED THAT INTERESTED GOTT AGENCIES HAD NOT HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY THE DRAFT AGREEMENTS. IT WAS THUS DECIDED TO POSTPONE SIGNING UNTIL EARLY AUGUST WHEN THE SOVIETS PROPOSE TO SEND A DELEGATION TO TRINIDAD. BOTH OF THESE AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY THE USSR, AS HAD ONE ON FISHERIES, WHICH WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER IN AUGUST. THE TRINIDADIAN WERE ASSURED THAT ALL THREE DRAFTS FOLLOW STANDARD SOVIET AGREEMENTS ON THESE TOPICS.

2. THE ONLY AGREEMENT EXPLICITLY PROPOSED BY THE TRINIDADIAN WERE ONE ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE SOVIETS OFFERED SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE TRINIDAD DRAFT, INCLUDING DELETION OF A CALL FOR "ON-SITE" EXPOSURE AND TRAINING IN SPECIFIED FIELDS OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THEY INSISTED THAT ANY SUCH AGREEMENT INCLUDE A CLAUSE PROHIBITING DISCLOSURE OF ANY INFORMATION TO A THIRD PARTY WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE OTHER PARTY. ALTHOUGH THE TRINIDAD DELEGATION AGREED TO BOTH OF THESE CHANGES, FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WERE POSTPONED UNTIL THE AUGUST SOVIET VISIT.

3. DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD REGARDING A BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCLEAR WHICH SIDE SURFACED THIS INITIATIVE. THE SOVIET MISSION TO TRINIDAD IN AUGUST IS TO INCLUDE A DELEGATE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL SOVIET EXPORTS (BUTTER IS SUGGESTED AS AN EXAMPLE) AND POSSIBLE USSR IMPORTS

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FROM TRINIDAD (SUCH AS COCOA, COFFEE AND CITRUS). ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE CONTEXT OF A COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT, THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION, AND THE TRINIDAD DELEGATION FELT THAT USSR SECONDARY RECOVERY TECHNIQUES SEEMED WELL DEVELOPED. THE SOVIET SEEMED ANXIOUS TO EXPORT THIS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE GOTT PROPOSES TO SEND AN OIL MISSION TO THE USSR TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT.

4. THE PRIME IMINSTER HAD ASKED TO MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THE GOTT'S ENERGY-RELATED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND THE TRINIDADIAN OUTLINED THE GOTT'S PLANNED DIRECT-REDUCTION IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX, THE PROPOSED TRINIDAD-JAMAICA-GUYANA ALUMINUM SMELTER, AND VARIOUS FERTILIZER PROJECTS. THE SOVIET REACTION WAS DESCRIBED AS "NOT ONE OF OVERWHELMING ENTHUSIASM", AND THEY QUESTIONED WHETHER ANY OF THESE PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY THE ALUMINUM SMELTER, MADE ANY COMMERCIAL SENSE. USSR OFFICIALS SAID IN ANY EVENT THAT THEY COULD NOT ASSIST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TRINIDAD DUE TO:

- A) LACK OF SOVIET DIRECT REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY;
- B) QUESTIONABLE FEASIBILITY OF ALUMINUM PROJECTS;
- C) LACK OF SURPLUS FERTILIZER-PLANT-MAKING CAPACITY;
- AND D) NO INTEREST IN POWER GENERATION (NATURAL GAS-FUELED). THE ONLY PROJECT IN WHICH THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED ANY INTEREST WAS CONCRETE PIPE MANUFACTURE, NOTING THAT PLANTS OF THIS TYPE HAD BEEN EXPORTED TO MANY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: FROM THE TONE OF THE PM'S PUBLIC PRESENTATION, AS WELL AS PRIVATE COMMENTS (REF A), THE VISIT TO THE USSR WAS OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTING, AND WE DOUBT THAT MUCH WILL COME OF THE PLANNED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS THE OIL MISSION. NEVERTHELESS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS (ESPECIALLY THE THREE PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS) WILL BE SIGNED WHEN THE SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS TRINIDAD DURING THE COMING MONTH. THE SOVIETS CLAIMED THAT THE NUMBER OF MERCHANT SHIP VISITS (20 IN 1974) IS INCREASING, AND THAT THIS JUSTIFIES ASSIGNMENT TO PORT OF SPAIN OF

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PERSONNEL (NOT CONSULAR OR DIPLOMATIC STAFF) FROM SOVIET SHIPPING ORGANIZATIONS. IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR, IT WILL BE THE FIRST SOVIET PRESENCE IN TRINIDAD.

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